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FRIDAY
MARCH 5, 1954

I met Senators Symington and Bridges at the Wallace Library at ten o'clock this morning. They asked me many questions regarding French affairs and the possibility of ratifying EDC. In connection with what the U. S. Government has been advocating -- the debate on EDC to commence before the Easter holidays -- the Senators asked me to be more specific about what we should do in the event our hopes in this respect were disappointed. I said if France postpones the ratification debate beyond April 15 the United States should publicly make preparations for its "agonizing reappraisal". We have made many threats in the past that proved to be idle. Inaction will only confirm the French in belief that we have no choice and that they can delay indefinitely. Action may in fact accomplish what threats have not. On the other hand, the United States should not jeopardize the possibility that the French Assembly will somehow ratify before summer despite the Geneva Conference and should in any case try to force a vote in the French Assembly, because "picking up the pieces" will be far easier if the French have said "no" in clear terms. Our policy then, if the French do not schedule debate before Easter, would be to act like a nation which might have to change its basic military strategy for European defense and to adjust its political alliances. The measures taken should be directed (a) to putting heavy pressure on French to ratify and (b) to preparing "to pick up the pieces" if they do not.

I went to lunch at Margaret Biddle's. She had Pinay, the two Senators and their wives. Afterwards Stuart talked to me about McCarthy. When he gets home he wishes to make a decision as to whether he will attack McCarthy and really make a final issue with him on it. In the Stevens incident, when an admirable opportunity was afforded the Administration to cut the Wisconsin Senator down to his true size, there was an abject capitulation. In the face of this, Stuart does not feel sure that this particular issue can be revived but I think it is quite evident he intends to put on the gloves shortly with

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his colleague. He is tough and resourceful, and I should think would be just the man to battle it out with McCarthy if he once decides to do it, which is the question.

I called Jamie Bonbright in Washington this afternoon in connection with cables we had sent out today advocating a meeting between Bedell Smith and Al Gruenther, who is leaving with the two Senators this afternoon, to see whether better language cannot be found for the President's declaration on U. S. assurances to NATO. Jamie answered by saying the controversy on what was to be embodied in this declaration had terminated this morning and he thought any change in the draft would be impossible since it had been [redacted] difficult to get an agreement. In spite of this, I sent all the papers to Al Gruenther so that he may be fully familiar with the affair.

Wiley Buchanan, our Minister to Luxembourg, came to see me and assured me Dr. Bech was ready to go ahead with EDC ratification as soon as the Belgian Senate had completed its work. I arranged to go up to Luxembourg and have a talk with Bech, [redacted]

Roger de Saivre, Deputé from Oran, called on me to see whether we would take any interest in a periodical he desires to establish. I had met him in Washington last year when he had come there with other Deputés. I told him we had no funds for such a purpose.

I talked to both Frank Giles and Harold Callender on the telephone this evening.

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